AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 29, 1998 AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 2, 1998

SENATE BILL

No. 1521

Introduced by Senator Alpert

February 10, 1998

An act to amend Sections 25548.1, 25548.4, and 25548.5 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to hazardous materials liability.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1521, as amended, Alpert. Liability: lenders: fiduciaries.

(1) Existing law exempts from liability a person who is acting in the capacity of a lender under any state or local statute, regulation, or ordinance, to the extent that the statute, regulation, or ordinance requires the taking of a removal and remedial action, or the payment of a penalty, and the liability arises from a release or threatened release of hazardous material at, from, or in connection with certain property, or to the extent the statute, regulation, or ordinance authorizes damages arising from a release or threatened release at certain property, except as specified. This exemption applies only if specified conditions exist, including if the lender maintains indicia of ownership in the property primarily to protect a security interest. Existing law defines the term "primarily to protect a security interest" as meaning that the indicia of ownership of a lender are held primarily for the purpose of securing payment or performance of an obligation, SB 1521 -2-

but excludes certain indicia of ownership held primarily for investment purposes or indicia of ownership held primarily for purposes other than as protection for a security interest.

This bill would revise the definition of the term "primarily to protect a security interest," to specify that any authorized or permitted activity of a supervised financial institution, except as specified, is an activity primarily to protect a security interest, loan, or obligation various terms for purposes of these immunity provisions.

(2) Existing law provides that these immunity provisions do not, among other things, exempt or excuse a lender or fiduciary who operates or directs the operation, or maintains the operation, of the property from compliance with the operational requirements of applicable laws, and specifies that operational requirements include certain permitting, reporting, monitoring, emission limitation, corrective action, financial responsibility and assurance requirements.

This bill would revise the activities included within the term "operational requirements" to instead include activities initiated or continued following completion of a remedial or removal action, including specified activities that are deemed necessary by the agency that approved the final remedial action plan, as specified.

(3) Existing law provides that the immunity specified in (1) above, does not apply if the lender, by an act or failure to act caused or contributed to the release or threatened release of the hazardous material or if, among other things, the fiduciary receives benefits that exceed customary or reasonable compensation for the administration property or if the lender made, secured, held, or acquired the loan or obligation primarily for investment purposes.

This bill would revise those exclusions from the immunity provided to lenders, as specified to instead provide that it does not apply if the benefits the fiduciary receives exceed customary and reasonable compensation or if the lender made, secured, held, or acquired a security interest for those reasons.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

—3— SB 1521

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

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SECTION 1. Section 25548.1 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

- 25548.1. As used in this chapter, the following terms have the following meaning:
- (a) "Actual benefit" means the amount, realized by the lender upon the disposition of property acquired through foreclosure or its equivalent as a direct result of a removal or remedial action undertaken by another person, not to exceed the amount, if any, by 10 which the disposition proceeds exceed the sum of the 11 balance of all of the following:
- (1) The loan or obligation or the amount of the lien, 13 evidenced by the loan or obligation outstanding at 14 foreclosure or its equivalent.
- (2) The costs, including attorneys' fees, incurred by 16 the lender in connection with the foreclosure or its equivalent, subsequent ownership, any removal remedial action, and disposition of the property.
- (b) "Borrower, debtor or obligor" means a person who 20 is obligated to a lender under a loan or obligation, whether or not the lender maintains a security interest in that person's property.
 - (c) "Damages" includes compensatory damages, exemplary damages, punitive damages, and costs of every kind and nature, including, but not limited to, costs of a removal or remedial action.
 - (d) "Fiduciary" means a person who is acting in any of the following capacities:
- (1) As trustee for a trust described in paragraph (1) or 30 (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 82 of the Probate Code.
- 31 (2) As a fiduciary in any arrangement described in 32 paragraphs (1) to (3), inclusive, or paragraphs (5) to 33 (14), inclusive, of subdivision (b) of Section 82 of the 34 Probate Code.
- (3) A trustee appointed in proceedings 35 under any 36 state or federal bankruptcy law.
- 37 assignee or a trustee acting under an assignment made for the benefit of creditors.

SB 1521 __4_

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(5) A court-appointed receiver.

- (e) "Finance lease" means a transaction with respect to which both of the following apply:
- (1) The lessor does not select or manufacture the goods or does not supply the goods, except in the case of a re-lease, whether it is created by a new transaction or substitution of the lessee.
- (2) The lessor acquires the goods or right to possession and use of the goods in connection with the lease or a prior lease transaction.
- (f) "Foreclosure or its equivalent" means the 12 acquisition of property by a lender through any of the following:
- (1) Judicial or nonjudicial foreclosure of the lender's 15 security interest in the property or acceptance of a deed 16 or other conveyance in satisfaction thereto.
 - (2) Acceptance of a deed in lieu or other conveyance satisfaction of a loan or obligation previously contracted.
 - (3) Termination of a finance lease by consent or default.
- (4) Any other formal or informal manner, whether 23 pursuant warranties, to law or under covenants, from 24 conditions, representations or promises 25 borrower, by which the lender acquires, for subsequent 26 disposition, actual possession of the property subject to a security interest.
- (g) "Hazardous material" has the same meaning as 29 defined in subdivision (d) of Section 25260.
- (h) (1) "Indicia of ownership" means evidence of a 31 security interest, evidence of an interest in a security 32 interest, or evidence of an interest in real or personal property securing a loan or other obligation, including, 34 but not limited to, any legal or equitable title to real or personal property acquired incident to foreclosure or its equivalent.
- (2) "Evidence of an interest" includes, but is not 37 38 limited to, all of the following:
- 39 (A) Mortgages.
- (B) Deeds of trust. 40

—5— SB 1521

(C) Liens.

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- (D) Surety bonds and guarantees of obligations.
- (E) Title held pursuant to a finance lease in which the lessor does not select initially the leased property.
- (F) Legal or equitable title obtained pursuant foreclosure or its equivalent.
- (G) Assignments, pledges, or other rights to, or other forms of, encumbrance against property that are held primarily to protect a security interest.
- (3) A person is not required to hold title or a security 11 interest to maintain indicia of ownership.
- (i) "Lender" means a person to the extent of the 13 capacity in which that person maintains indicia 14 ownership primarily to protect a security interest or 15 makes, acquires, renews, modifies, or holds a loan or 16 obligation from a borrower. "Lender" includes either of the following persons:
- (1) Any person who acts as, or on behalf of, a lender in 19 connection with aspect solicitation, any of the 20 negotiation, consummation, disbursement, 21 administration. servicing. collection. enforcement. 22 foreclosure or its equivalent of a loan or obligation or security interest in property including, but not limited to, such as a surety, escrow, or title insurer company.
 - (2) Any person who makes, secures, acquires, or holds a loan or obligation or security interest by assignment, sale, pledge, subrogation, succession, or operation of law, or becomes the receiver for the holder of a loan or obligation or security interest.
- (j) "Loan or obligation" means a loan, revolving or nonrevolving line of credit, finance lease, sale-leaseback 32 that provides for a purchase option in favor of the lessee, installment sale contract, sale on account, or other credit sale, letter of credit, forbearance or guaranty, collateral pledge, or other suretyship obligation, and any extension, 36 renewal, or modification thereof. A loan or obligation may or may not involve a security interest in property.
- 38 (k) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4), "participate (or participation) in the management of the property" means actual participation in the management

SB 1521 -6-

or operational affairs of the property by the lender while the borrower, under the loan or obligation, is in possession of the property, and the lender exercises decisionmaking control over the environmental compliance 5 borrower, so that the lender assumes responsibility for the hazardous material handling or disposal practices of the borrower, or exercises control at a level comparable to that of a manager of the enterprise of the borrower, so that the lender assumes or manifests responsibility for the 10 overall management of the enterprise encompassing the day-to-day decisionmaking of the enterprise with respect to either of the following: 12 13

(A) Environmental compliance.

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- (B) All, or substantially all, of the operational, as opposed to financial or administrative, aspects of the enterprise other than environmental compliance.
- (2) For purposes of paragraph (1), the following terms 18 have the following meaning:
 - (A) "Operational aspects of the enterprise" includes, but is not limited to, functions such as that of facility or operations manager, chief plant manager. operating officer, or chief executive officer.
- (B) "Financial or administrative aspects" includes, 24 but is not limited to, functions such as that of a credit manager, accounts payable/receivable manager, personnel manager, controller, or chief financial officer.
- (3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), "participation in 28 the management of the property" does not include an act or omission by a prospective lender prior to making, acquiring, or holding a loan or obligation. "Participation in the management of the property" also does not include the actions taken by a prospective lender who undertakes requires an environmental inspection of property prior to making, acquiring, or holding a loan or obligation. A lender or prospective lender does not "participate in 36 the management of the property" if the lender or prospective lender requires the borrower to clean up the property or requires the borrower to comply or come into compliance with any applicable law or regulation. This chapter does not require a lender to conduct or require

—7 — SB 1521

an inspection prior to foreclosure or its equivalent to qualify for the exemption provided by this chapter, and the liability of a lender shall not be based on or affected by whether the lender conducts or requires an inspection prior to foreclosure or its equivalent.

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- (4) Loan policing and work out activities, as specified in paragraphs (5) and (6), that are consistent with holding ownership indicia primarily to protect a security interest and consistent with a loan or obligation made, 10 acquired, or held primarily for purposes other than investment purposes, do not constitute participation in the management of the property. The authority for the lender to take those actions may, but are not required to, contained in contractual or other documents requirements for financial. specifying environmental. and other warranties, covenants, conditions. representations, or promises from the borrower. Loan policing and work out activities include all activities up to 19 foreclosure or its equivalent.
 - (5) A lender who engages in loan policing activities prior to foreclosure or its equivalent is exempt from liability pursuant to this chapter if the lender does not, by those actions, participate in the management of the property. Those actions include, but are not limited to, all of the following:
 - (A) Requiring the borrower to conduct a removal or remedial action during the term of the security interest or loan or obligation.
 - (B) Requiring the borrower to comply or come into compliance with applicable federal, state, and local environmental and other laws during the term of the security interest or loan or obligation.
- (C) Securing or exercising authority to monitor or 34 inspect the property, including onsite inspections, or the business or financial condition of the borrower during the term of the security interest or loan or obligation.
- (D) Taking other actions to adequately police the 37 38 loan, obligation, or security interest, such as requiring the borrower to comply with any warranties, covenants,

SB 1521 **—8** —

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conditions, representations, or promises in connection with the security interest or loan or obligation.

- (6) (A) A lender who engages in work out activities prior to foreclosure or its equivalents is exempt from liability pursuant to this chapter if the lender does not, by those actions, participate in the management of the property.
- (B) "Work out" means those actions by which a 9 lender, at any time prior to foreclosure or its equivalent, 10 seeks to prevent, cure, or mitigate a default by the borrower, or to preserve or prevent the diminution of the value of the property, security interest, or loan or 12 13 obligation.
- (C) Work out activities include, but are not limited to, 15 all of the following:
 - (i) Restructuring or renegotiating the terms of the loan, obligation, or security interest.
 - (ii) Requiring payment of additional rent or interest.
 - (iii) Exercising rights pursuant to an assignment of accounts or other amounts owing to a lender.
 - (iv) Requiring or exercising rights pursuant to escrow agreement pertaining to amounts owing to a lender.
 - (v) Exercising forbearance.
 - (vi) Providing specific or general financial or other advice, suggestions, counseling, or guidance.
- (vii) Exercising any right or remedy the lender is 28 entitled to by law or under any warranties, covenants, representations, conditions. or promises 30 borrower.
- 31 (7) A lender does not participate in the management 32 of the property by taking any response action under 33 Section 107(d)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental
- 34 Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (42 35 U.S.C. Sec. 9607(d)(1)). However, the lender may be
- 36 liable for damages, as defined by this chapter, that occur
- as a result of the gross negligence or willful misconduct
- of the lender in his or her performance of a response
- action under Section 107 (d)(1) of the Comprehensive

9 SB 1521

Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 9607(d)(1)).

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- (l) "Person" means any entity, including, but not limited to, an individual, estate, trust, firm, business trust, company, corporation, partnership, stock limited company, venture, liability association, government. "Person" includes, but is not limited to, any city, county, district, the state, or the federal government, or any department, subdivision, or agency thereof.
- (m) "Primarily to protect a security interest, loan, or obligation"
- (m) (1) "Primarily to protect a security interest" means that the indicia of ownership of a lender are held primarily for the purpose of securing payment or performance of an obligation.
- (1) "Primarily to protect a security interest, loan, or obligation"
- (2) "Primarily to protect a security interest" does not ownership 19 include indicia held primarily of investment purposes or indicia of ownership primarily for purposes other than as protection for a security interest, loan, or obligation. A lender may have other, secondary reasons for maintaining indicia of ownership, but the primary reason that any indicia of ownership are held shall be as protection for a security 26 interest, loan, or obligation.
- (2) An "authorized or permitted activity" of a supervised financial institution, except those activities permitted in subdivision (d) of Section 751.3 of the 30 Financial Code or Section 7350 of the Financial Code, is an activity primarily to protect a security interest, loan, or obligation.
- (n) "Property" means any real or personal property 34 where hazardous materials are or were generated, 35 handled, managed, deposited, stored, disposed of, placed, 36 released, or otherwise have come to be located. In the context of a loan or obligation, "property" includes any real or personal property in which the obligor has or had an ownership, leasehold, or possessory interest, whether

SB 1521 **— 10 —**

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or not it was the subject of a security interest for the loan or obligation.

- (o) "Release" has the same meaning as defined in Section 25320.
- (p) "Remedial action" has the same meaning defined in subdivision (g) of Section 25260.
- (q) "Removal" means the cleanup or removal released hazardous materials from the environment or the taking of other actions that may be necessary to damages prevent, minimize, mitigate 10 or otherwise result from a release or threatened release, as 12 further defined in Section 101(23) of the Comprehensive 13 Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability 14 Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 9601(23)).
- (r) "Security interest" means an interest in a property 16 created or established for the purpose of securing a loan or obligation. Security interests include, but are not 18 limited to, mortgages, deeds of trust, liens, and title pursuant to a finance lease. Security interests may also 20 arise from transactions such as sale and leasebacks, conditional installment sales. sales, trust transactions, certain assignments, factoring agreements, accounts receivable financing arrangements consignments if the transaction creates or establishes an interest in a property for the purpose of securing a loan or other obligation.
 - SEC. 2. Section 25548.4 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:
 - 25548.4. This chapter does not do any of the following:
 - (a) Affect any rights, defenses, or immunities that are available to any lender or fiduciary under any applicable law.
 - (b) Create any liability for any lender or fiduciary.
 - (e) Create any private right of action against any lender or fiduciary.
 - (d) (1) Exempt or excuse a lender or fiduciary who operates or directs the operation, or maintains the operation, of the property from compliance with the operational requirements of applicable laws relating to activities conducted subsequent to completion of a

—11 — SB 1521

remedial or removal action of hazardous materials from that property.

- (2) For purposes of this subdivision, operational requirements also include those activities initiated or continued following completion of a remedial or removal action of hazardous materials from the property that are deemed necessary by the agency that approved the final remedial action plan to protect the public health and environment and achieve or maintain the abatement goals established by the final remedial action plan.
- (e) Affect any liability of a fiduciary to a beneficiary of a fiduciary estate for breach of trust under Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 16400) of Part 4 of Division 9 of the Probate Code.
 - (f) Affect any liabilities of a fiduciary estate.
- (g) Exempt a lender from liability imposed by Chapter 6.8 (commencing with Section 25300) for a removal or remedial action or the recovery of damages relating to a release or threatened release of hazardous material, to the extent that the lender is a responsible party pursuant to Section 107(a)(3) or (4) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 9607(a)(3) or (4)).
- (h) Exempt a lender or fiduciary from any liability imposed by Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 25100).
- (i) Exempt or excuse a lender from liability under any state or local statute, regulation, or ordinance for a known or suspected release or known or suspected threatened release of hazardous materials caused by events or conditions occurring prior to foreclosure or its equivalent, unless, after taking possession of the property, the lender promptly takes each of the following actions in accordance with applicable law:
- (1) Suspends operations with respect to that portion of the property where the known or suspected release or known or suspected threatened release occurred or may occur.

SB 1521 **— 12 —**

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(2) Removes from the suspended operations and affected areas on the property, all hazardous material not released into the environment and secures the suspended operations.

- (3) Reports any known or suspected releases of hazardous material.
- (j) Limit the application or enforcement of Section 25359.4 or 25359.5 or other state or local fencing, posting, securing, notification, or reporting laws with regard to property that is acquired by a lender through foreclosure or its equivalent, to the extent that those requirements are otherwise applicable to the property.
- (k) Exempt a lender from compliance with an 14 administrative order requiring immediate and temporary measures to prevent, abate, or minimize an 16 emergency caused by a release or threatened release of hazardous material at, from, or in connection with, any property that has been acquired by the lender through foreclosure or its equivalent, when all of the following circumstances exist:
 - (1) The release or threatened release presents an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health or welfare or the environment.
 - (2) No other person who is viable and potentially responsible for the release or threatened release has been identified and located by the agency issuing the order, following a reasonable effort by the agency to identify and locate any such person.
 - (3) The costs and expenses incurred by the lender to comply with the administrative order do not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).
 - (4) If the lender complies with the administrative order, the compliance would not, in and of itself, subject the lender to liability for a removal or remedial action or damages, fines, penalties, impositions, or assessments relating to the release or threatened release under any federal law.
- (1) (1) Exempt a lender who has acquired title to 38 property through foreclosure or its equivalent from operation and maintenance requirements that were

-13-SB 1521

established on the property as a result of a removal or remedial action conducted on the property.

- (2) "Operation and maintenance requirements" include, but are not limited to, deed restrictions and requirements to maintain passive exposure controls and to perform monitoring. If there are requirements other than operation and maintenance requirements, which are applicable to the property to maintain the effectiveness of the removal or remediation action, the lender shall comply with those requirements unless the lender, upon foreclosure or its equivalent, notifies the appropriate agency that it does not intend to comply with the requirements and the agency concurs.
- (m) Require a lender to conduct, or require a lender 15 to direct the taking of, an inspection of the property after foreclosure or its equivalent to qualify for the exemption provided by this chapter, and the liability of a lender shall not be based on, or affected by, the lender not conducting, or not requiring, an inspection of the property after foreclosure or its equivalent.
 - (n) Require a fiduciary to conduct or require an inspection of the property in a fiduciary estate to qualify for the exemption provided by this chapter and the liability of the fiduciary shall not be based on, or affected by, the fiduciary not conducting or not requiring an inspection prior to holding the property as part of the fiduciary estate.

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- SEC. 2. Section 25548.5 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:
- 25548.5. The exemptions set forth in Sections 25548.2 32 and 25548.3 shall not apply under any of the following conditions: 33
- (a) If, after foreclosure or its equivalent is conducted, 35 the lender does not undertake to sell, re-lease property 36 held pursuant to a finance lease, whether by a new finance lease or by substitution of the lessee, or otherwise undertake to be divested of the property in a reasonably expeditious manner, using whatever commercially reasonable are relevant means or appropriate

SB 1521 **— 14** —

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respect to the property, taking all facts and circumstances into consideration. For purposes of establishing that a lender is seeking to sell, re-lease property held pursuant to a finance lease, whether by a new finance lease or substitution of the lessee, or be divested of property in a reasonably expeditious manner, the lender may whatever commercially reasonable means as are relevant 8 appropriate with respect to the property, or may 9 employ the following means:

- (1) For purposes of this subdivision, the exemption set forth in subdivision (a) of Section 25548.2 shall apply following foreclosure or its equivalent, if, within 12 months following foreclosure or its equivalent, the lender does either of the following:
- (A) Lists the property for sale, re-lease, or other 16 disposition with a broker, dealer, or agent who deals with that type of property.
 - (B) Advertises the property for sale, re-lease, or other disposition on at least a monthly basis in either of the following:
 - publication (i) A real estate or trade publication suitable for advertising the property.
- (ii) A newspaper of general circulation, which is a 24 newspaper with a circulation over 10,000 or one suitable under any applicable federal, state, or local rules of court for publication required by court order or rules of civil procedure, covering the area where the property is located.
 - (2) For purposes of this subdivision, the 12-month period shall begin to run from the date that the lender acquires marketable title to the property if the lender, after the expiration of any redemption or other waiting period provided by law, has acted diligently to acquire marketable title. If the lender has failed to act diligently to acquire marketable title, the 12-month period shall begin to run on the date of foreclosure or its equivalent.
 - (b) If, after foreclosure or its equivalent, the lender does not comply with all applicable statutes, regulations, or ordinances that require the disclosure of information or conditions regarding the property to any person.

— 15 — SB 1521

fiduciary's negligent or (c) If the intentional reckless conduct causes or contributes to the release or threatened release of a hazardous material at, from, or in connection with a property held by the fiduciary as part of the fiduciary estate.

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- (d) With respect to liability that arises from voluntary removal or remedial action taken by a fiduciary if, prior to initiating a voluntary removal or remedial action, the fiduciary does not notify the appropriate agency of the fiduciary's intent to conduct that action.
- (e) With respect to liability that arises from conduct of, or ownership of the property by, the lender or fiduciary, other than in its capacity as a lender or fiduciary.
- (f) Where the loan or obligation or fiduciary 15 relationship or fiduciary transaction is structured for the 16 purpose of evading liability for a release or threatened release of hazardous materials.
- (g) If the fiduciary is both a beneficiary and fiduciary 19 with respect to the same fiduciary estate, or as a fiduciary, 20 receives benefits that exceed customary and reasonable compensation for the administration of the property permitted under other applicable law.
- (h) To the extent of the actual benefit, if any, realized 24 by a lender upon the disposition of property acquired through foreclosure or its equivalent as a result of a remedial action undertaken by removal or another person.
 - (i) If the lender participated in the management of the property before foreclosure or its equivalent, except that the lender's liability shall be limited to any release or threatened release which occurred while the lender participated in the management of the property.
- (j) If the lender, acted contrary to, or failed to take 34 action otherwise affirmatively required by, the applicable law governing hazardous materials.
 - (k) If the lender did not make, secure, hold, or acquire the security interest, loan, or obligation primarily to protect a security interest, loan, or obligation.

SB 1521 -16-

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(j) If the lender, by an act or failure to act, caused or contributed to the release or threatened release of the hazardous material.

- (k) If the lender made, secured, held, or acquired the security interest primarily for investment purposes.
- (1) If the lender outbids, rejects, or fails to act upon an offer of fair consideration for the property acquired through foreclosure or its equivalent, unless the lender is required, to avoid liability under federal or state law, to 10 make a higher bid, to obtain a higher offer, or to seek or obtain an offer in a different manner. For purposes of this subdivision, the following terms shall have the following meaning:
- (1) (A) "Fair consideration" means the sum of all of 15 the following less the amounts specified in subparagraph 16 (B):
- (i) The value of the security interest or loan or 18 obligation calculated as an amount equal to or in excess of, the sum of the outstanding principal, or comparable amount in the case of a finance lease, owed to the lender immediately preceding the acquisition of full pursuant to foreclosure or its equivalent.
- (ii) Any unpaid interest, rent, or penalties, whether 24 arising before or after foreclosure or its equivalent.
- (iii) All reasonable and necessary costs, fees, or other 26 charges incurred by the lender incident to workout, foreclosure or its equivalent, retention, maintaining the business activities of the enterprise, preserving, and preparing the property prior to sale, protecting, 30 re-leasing the property held pursuant to a finance lease, whether by a new finance lease or substitution of the lessee, or other disposition.
- (iv) The lender's costs incurred for any removal or 34 remedial action, including but not limited to, response 35 costs for response action taken by the lender under 36 Section 107(d)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental 37 Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (42 38 U.S.C. Sec. 9607(d)(1)).

— 17 — SB 1521

(B) In determining fair consideration, the following amounts shall be subtracted from the sum calculated pursuant to subparagraph (A):

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- (i) Any amounts received by the lender in connection with any partial disposition of the property.
- (ii) Net revenues received as a result of maintaining the business activities of the enterprise.
- (iii) Any amounts paid by the borrower subsequent to the acquisition of full title pursuant to foreclosure or its equivalent.
- (C) In the case of a lender holding a junior security iunior obligation, interest. iunior loan, or consideration" is the value of all outstanding higher priority security interests, loans or obligations plus the value of the security interest, loan or obligation held by 16 the junior holder, calculated as set forth in this paragraph.
- (2) "Outbids, rejects, or fails to act upon an offer of fair 18 consideration" means that the lender outbids, rejects, or fails to act upon within 90 days from the date of receipt of a written, bona fide and firm offer of fair consideration for the property received at any time after six months following foreclosure or its equivalent. That six-month period shall begin to run from the date that the lender acquires marketable title, if the lender, after expiration of any redemption or other waiting period provided by law, has acted diligently to acquire marketable title. If the lender has failed to act diligently to acquire marketable title, the six-month period shall begin to run on the date of foreclosure or its equivalent.
- 30 (3) "Written, bona fide and firm offer" means a legally enforceable, commercially reasonable, cash offer solely for the property, including all material terms of the transaction, from a ready, willing, and able purchaser who demonstrates to the lender's satisfaction the ability 34 35 to perform.